



pppLASSEN COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2003, 1:30 p.m.
1345 Barry Creek Plaza, Suite B
Susanville, California

Commissioners Present: Doug McCoy, Bobby Malone, Mae Sherman, Kathy Colvin, Alternate, Patsy Jimenez, Sheral Thorlaksson, Karol Merten, Janice Irvin, Jim Chapman

Commissioners Absent: Alternate Member Brian Dahle, Alternate Member Shannon Gerig,

Commission Staff: Laura Roberts, Dennis Wilkes

Visitors: Janet Lasick, Lisa Holmstrom, Tonya Moore

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson, Doug McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The Chairperson welcomed everyone, and all introduced themselves.

2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Merten moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Commissioner Jimenez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

4. **Consent Calendar:** The consent calendar was presented. Commissioner Malone moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed. Items approved on the consent calendar are:

- 2a. SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes LCCFC Meeting of May 1, 2003
- 2b. SUBJECT: Approval of Fiscal Report

5. **Mini Grant Requests: Lassen County Public Health Child Passenger Safety Program.** Commissioner Malone requested that there be close collaboration between the other two agencies conducting similar programs in the county. Commissioner Merten stated that this is a very worthwhile endeavor of the Health Department. Commissioner Irvin commented on a program put on by CHP about child car seat safety for Head Start and how important it was for the parents. There are four people in Lassen County that have been trained specifically about car seat installation. Commissioner McCoy asked about sustainability of the program since some of the grant funds will fund salary. Commissioner Malone responded that the Courts will be looking for a class to send offenders to, and perhaps there can be some sustainability generated this way. Commissioner Thorlaksson questioned if the classes will be taken to outlying areas. Commissioner Jimenez responded that this could be worked out. WIC clinics could be a potential site for outreach for the program. Commissioner Merten moved to approve the application for \$6,638.00, seconded by Commissioner Thorlaksson, the motion carried. Commissioners Malone and Jimenez abstained.

DelCarlo DayCare/Preschool Outdoor Play Area Application: A revised budget was presented based upon a request to exclude the capital improvement items. Discussion ensued about strengths and weaknesses of the application. Commissioner Malone commented on the application that it is a natural continuation of the applicant's efforts to develop the outdoor area of the daycare/preschool. Commissioner Jimenez moved that the application be approved at the \$7,500 level. Commissioner McCoy commented that a budget justification is needed. Laura is directed to work with the applicant to create the justification form prior to release of funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sherman, the motion carried unanimously.

Families for Literacy, A program of Susanville District Library: A request to purchase a book called "Read To Your Bunny" to encourage families a new born infants to read to their children. Commissioner Malone moved for approval, Commissioner Jimenez seconded the motion. Commissioner Irvin asked if the book is available in Spanish. Commissioner McCoy questioned sustainability. Laura is asked to convey the concern about Spanish availability and sustainability to the applicant. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Reports: Big Valley Family Resource Center:** A building has been purchased by the County, escrow is to close by the 15th of August. The new director Lillian Arnold will then move into the building. Lillian has been working hard to get the program up and moving. It is not limited to 0-5 as it is funded by other sources. She will be attending a training on FRC development. She is working on grants for a fire hall for Little Valley among other things.

Westwood Family Resource Center: Tonya Moore reported on the progress of the FRC. The numbers of families being served is increasing. The Kindergarten Camp was just completed and was a great success. Tonya showed the back packs and contents that were distributed to children during the camp. Tonya also reported on the child abuse prevention puppets that the FRC received and will be utilized for training. Commissioner Irvin asked if the curriculum will be offered to other preschools and Kindergarten teachers. Tonya extended her services to others.

Home Visiting Program: Lisa Holmstrom reported on the project. She stated that the program has really taken off. 22 families are in the program, 9 are on a waiting list for the North County. Full capacity is 60 families so they are at 50% now. 88 visits have been completed each month since it started up. There are 440 hours invested in the families to date. Westwood has 9 families enrolled, Susanville has 13 enrolled, with 9 on a waiting list for Big Valley. 36 children have been 5 years of age and under, with the others being siblings. 2 children have had special needs. Many referrals have come from Home Visiting outreach events. Some fathers are participating as encouraged by the Growing Great Kids curriculum. Two of the families are Spanish speaking only. Public Health visits have begun with the families also. The MDT presentations have begun to CSOC as a part of the team. Collaboration with many other agencies is working very well, such as Lassen Works, Children's Services, Public Health, etc. Lisa shared the assessment tools with the Commission. They were able to acquire these instruments through a \$9,500 grant from Safe and Stable Families Grant funding. Families have been connected to services, such as oral health.

Oral Health Project: Laura reported on the progress of the Lassen Oral Health Task Force. An alignment with Northeastern Rural Health is being worked out. This will solve the issues of malpractice insurance, and eligibility for other funding opportunities available to non-profits. The fluoride varnish activities are scheduled to begin in the Fall. Other sources of funds are coming from Lassen Plumas Sierra Community Action Agency for a program that will serve income eligible senior citizens, teens, and WIC mothers. Dave Anderson at the hospital has indicated that they will purchase the equipment needed for hospital dentistry.

Mini Grants: There are two more mini grant applications that have been received and will be considered at the next meeting.

CARES: The CARES application is in and additional information has been submitted which pertains to a new component

Director's Report: Laura reported that work is under way on the annual audit, the annual report, and the school readiness report

7. **Other:** Consumer friendly report. Laura is directed to obtain prices for producing the annual report in a calendar format.

Reclaiming Preschool Equipment: Chapman/Sherman moved and seconded to offer the preschool equipment to Big Valley Family Resource Center first and then the other preschools that have been funded. Laura is to inventory. The motion carried with Sheral Thorlaksson abstaining.

Local Oral Health Initiative Development: Laura is directed to place an announcement in the local paper to solicit letters of interest to develop an infant oral care program. Commissioner Irvin moved and Jimenez seconded the motion to solicit letters of interest. The motion carried unanimously.

Behavioral Health Initiative for Children: After great discussion, Laura is directed to present a concept paper to the Board of Supervisors that requests their support and funding for a behavioral health services for children which incorporates Family Resource Centers, Home Visiting, Behavioral Specialists, Child Care Providers, and families.

8. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Roberts
Executive Director